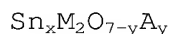


CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-19 (canceled)

20. (currently amended) ~~A pigment according to claim 19~~ An inorganic pigment, the pigment comprising a compound of the formula:



wherein A is S or Se; wherein M is Nb or Ta; wherein $1.0 \leq x \leq 2.0$; and wherein $0 < y \leq 0.6$.

21-22 (canceled)

23. (currently amended) ~~A composition according to claim 22, wherein~~ A pigmented composition, the composition comprising a substrate matrix and a pigment, wherein the pigment comprises a compound which is an oxysulphide or oxyselenide of tin and a metal chosen from niobium or tantalum and the substrate matrix comprises at least one glass component.

24. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 23, wherein the at least one glass component is a low melting glass enamel frit.

25. (currently amended) A composition according to ~~claim 22,~~ claim 23, wherein the pigment comprises from 1 to 50 wt% of the composition.

26. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 23, in the form of a glass frit, an enamel, a glass sheet or a glass article.

27. (currently amended) ~~A composition according to claim 22, wherein~~ A pigmented composition, the composition comprising a substrate matrix and a pigment, wherein the pigment comprises a compound which is an oxysulphide or oxyselenide of tin and a metal chosen from niobium or tantalum and the substrate matrix comprises at least one plastic component.

28. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 27, wherein the at least one plastic component is PVC.

29. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 27, wherein the pigment comprises from 1 to 50 wt% of the composition.

30. (currently amended) The use of ~~a pigment according to claim 19, for~~ an inorganic pigment, the pigment comprising a compound which is an oxysulphide or oxyselenide of tin and a metal chosen from niobium or tantalum, comprising coloring glasses or ~~plastics~~ plastics using the pigment.

31. (currently amended) A method for the production of ~~a pigment according to claim 19,~~ an inorganic pigment, the pigment comprising a compound which is an oxysulphide or oxyselenide of tin and a metal chosen from niobium or tantalum, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) intimately mixing SnO , SnA and M_2O_5 in an appropriate ratio to produce a reaction mixture; wherein A is S or Se; and wherein M is Nb or Ta,

(b) heating the reaction mixture to a temperature of between 800 and 1100°C, and

(c) cooling the product.

32. (previously presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein the reaction mixture further comprises one or more mineralizers.

33. (previously presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein the reaction mixture is heated under vacuum.

34. (previously presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein the reaction mixture is heated in air.

35. (previously presented) A method according to claim 31, further comprising the step of comminuting the product.

36. (previously presented) A method according to claim 31, further comprising the step of washing the cooled product with an acid.

37. (new) An inorganic pigment, the pigment comprising a compound of the formula $\text{Sn}_x\text{M}_{2-z}\text{M}'_z\text{O}_{7-y}\text{A}_y$, where A is S or Se; M is Nb or Ta; M' is a dopant element; $1.0 \leq x \leq 2.0$; $0 < y \leq 0.6$; and $0 < z \leq 2.0$.